



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Norfolk District

News Release

Contact: Gerald Rogers
Phone: (757) 201-7241

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2006
#06-04

Public invited!

Corps to brief FNOD Restoration Advisory Board on cleanup progress

SUFFOLK, Va. – Building on its successful 2005 cleanup campaign and aggressive work plans and field activities under way this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host its quarterly Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting at 6:15 p.m., June 1.

The RAB meeting, which is open to the public, will be held in the second floor conference room at the Bon Secours Health Center at Harbour View, located at 5818 Harbour View Boulevard in Suffolk.

As the Corps continues to make significant progress in its ordnance and environmental investigations and remediation at FNOD, the quarterly RAB meeting serves as a forum to update community citizens on cleanup efforts; moreover, to receive community feedback.

Project team members from the Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be available to address community questions regarding the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS), which is listed on the EPA's National Priorities List. Additionally, several property owners will attend the quarterly meeting.

Agenda topics for the evening feature:

- Upcoming Community Outreach Activities
- Landowner Updates
- Army Corps Updates, including:
 - 2006 Project and Budget Update
 - Update on Land Use Control
 - Update on Track K Dump Record of Decision
 - Briefings on specific environmental investigations under way or scheduled in near future
 - Update on recent Military Munitions Response Program (ordnance removal) progress and findings

FNOD
2-2-2-2

Background on the Restoration Advisory Board – The FNOD Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was established in 1997. It is a communications forum that enables the public to directly provide input on cleanup efforts at the site to project team members of the Corps, VDEQ and the EPA. The RAB is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders, including community members, local business representatives, local and state officials, a Tidewater Community College representative, other property owners and FNOD project team members from the Corps, VDEQ and the EPA. Additional project information can be found at: <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Nansemond/welcome.html>; or contact FUDs Program Manager, Adriane James, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (757) 201-7701.

--30--

FOR MEDIA USE ONLY: Media are welcome to attend each quarterly FNOD Restoration Advisory Board meeting. Below is background information on the Corps' current schedule of work plans and field activities, which will be discussed at June 1 RAB meeting:

The Corps continues its busy schedule this year with work plans and field activities identified for a variety of environmental investigations. There are a total of six EPA-designated Source Areas and 23 other Areas of Concern (AOC) scattered throughout the 975-acre project site. Investigation and evaluation continues at four of the six EPA Source Areas. Five of the 23 AOCs have been fully evaluated and eliminated as potential hazardous sites. Fifteen of the remaining 18 AOCs are currently undergoing various levels of investigation (some nearing completion), and start-up investigations at the remaining three AOCs are expected in fiscal year 2007, which begins Oct. 1.

Environmental Studies

The Corps will brief the approved investigation approach for the J Lake area (AOC-7) of the Tidewater Community College (TCC) property at its June 1 RAB meeting. The Corps will also brief on the Arsenic Investigation Area (AOC-22), adjacent to the GE facility near the Nansemond River at the NW sector of the FNOD project site, during Thursday evening's technical update presentations. An update of the upcoming groundwater sampling in the TNT area (Source Area 1), located near the entrance of the TCC Portsmouth campus, will also be presented.

J Lake Investigation – This investigation involves evaluation of ground scars from 1950s-era aerial photographs for potential contaminants, as well as evaluating the condition of the lake itself for any impacts associated with undocumented but possible Defense Department disposal practices. The Corps had conducted a previous evaluation of this site, with negative findings. These findings allowed the Corps to rate the site a lower priority for active follow-up investigation.

Arsenic Investigation – The Corps is developing a work plan to investigate arsenic that has been detected in a couple of groundwater monitoring wells located between the Horseshoe Pond and the GE warehouse building. Only one of these wells produced samples containing a significant level of dissolved phase arsenic (26 ug/l); however, the investigation is trying to determine whether there is a source of contamination nearby or whether the result is related to naturally occurring environmental conditions at the northwest corner of the GE property. Currently, there is insufficient data to evaluate the absence or presence of such a source; the Corps is developing a work plan to further investigate this area. Initially, the project team plans to install and sample five new monitoring wells, in addition to collecting surface and subsurface soil samples throughout an expanded area, centering on the identified "hot" well.

The TNT Area – Data from the Corps' TNT area groundwater sampling effort will be used to determine an appropriate remedial alternative for the site. Fortunately, the TNT concentrations in the groundwater have been declining significantly over time through natural degradation. The Corps is set to evaluate two potential remedial alternatives for this site: in-situ biodegradation through natural processes and in-situ chemical oxidation through augmentation of nutrients to accelerate natural degradation processes.

Munitions Response

Munitions response efforts began in earnest at the former depot in 2000, and are expected to continue through September 2008. Over the last 5 years, the Corps has removed 2,580 discarded munitions items, 8,874 pounds of bulk explosives, 164,175 pounds of munitions debris (inert material), over 1.3 million pounds of non-munitions related scrap, and over 1.9 million pounds of contaminated soil.

Main Burning Ground – In 2005, the Corps focused most of its munitions response efforts at FNOD in the Main Burning Ground area on GE property and in the adjacent Tidewater Community College parcel north of Welner Drive. The Corps removed 24 discarded military munitions items, 556 pounds of munitions debris (inert material), and 140,149 pounds of non-munitions related scrap. The Corps will continue its munitions investigation at the GE Main Burning Ground, where there are 23, 100-foot by 100-foot site grids remaining to investigate.

Nansemond River Beachfront – The Corps has begun a munitions investigation at the Nansemond River Beachfront. The field crew will excavate three pits that may contain discarded military munitions, conduct a surface clearance out to mean low water, and behind the retaining wall, excavate three trenches back to virgin soil to conduct soil characterization.

Another significant FNOD activity was the announcement last December, by then-Governor Mark Warner, that the Virginia Community College System had created the Tidewater Community College Real Estate Foundation (TCCREF) to handle the sale of its 519-acre TCC Portsmouth campus property. The Foundation will coordinate plans for disposal of current TCC Suffolk property to create an endowment for the future Portsmouth campus of TCC.